

GOVERNOR'S HOUSING COMMITTEE

Meeting Minutes

May 12, 2020

A meeting of the Governor's Housing Committee was held on this date in the East Conference Room, Joe R. Williams Building, Boise, and via Zoom. Chairman Winder called the meeting to order at 3:30 pm.

Members Present:

Senator Chuck Winder, Chairman
Senator Maryanne Jordan (via Zoom)
Representative Robert Anderst
Representative Rob Mason (via Zoom)
Keith Reynolds, Director, Department of Administration (DoA)

Others Present:

Steve Bailey, Deputy Director, DoA
Barry Miller, Deputy Administrator, Division of Public Works
David Fulkerson, State Financial Officer, Division of Financial Management (via Zoom)
Roy and Mary Glen, Horizon View Drive Neighbors
Betsy Russel, Idaho Press
Diane Blume, Program Specialist, Department of Administration

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION: Senator Jordan moved, and it was seconded by Representative Anderst that the minutes of the June 21, 2019 Governor's Housing Committee meeting be approved as written. The motion passed unanimously.

FINANCIAL UPDATE

Governor's Residence Operating Fund Cash Flow, as of April 30, 2020

This Fund is set-up for committee expenses which includes payment of the Governor's stipend, DoA overhead, and miscellaneous payments. The fiscal year began with \$399,603 and earned interest revenue to date of \$7,018. Cash expenses are \$51,507 which leaves a balance of \$355,114. This sum represents about 5 years of housing stipends for the Governor at the current rate, Director Reynolds pointed out.

Governor's Residence Fund FY2020 Budget to Actual as of April 30, 2020

The FY20 budget was set at \$60,810 and to date \$51,507 has been expended; \$45,507 for the Governor's housing stipend and \$6,000 for DoA overhead expenses.

Special Projects Fund Cash Flow as of April 30, 2019

This Fund holds remaining dollars from an account established with the Idaho Community Foundation for fundraising efforts for the former Idaho House (Simplot House). After the house reverted back to the Simplot family, the Community Foundation asked that the balance of funds be withdrawn from its oversight. Because there are restrictions for its use, it is accounted for separately. It does not qualify to be used for a Governor's stipend. On July 1st the balance was \$188,607. It earned \$3,325 in interest and has a year-to-date total of \$191,933.

Proposed FY21 Operating Budget

Funding for the Housing Committee is continuously appropriated and does not require legislative approval. The proposed budget for FY21 is identical to the FY20 budget set at \$60,810, he said.

MOTION: Senator Jordan moved, and it was seconded by Representative Anderst that the Committee approve the proposed FY21 budget as presented. The committee passed it unanimously after a roll call vote.

FORT BOISE PROPERTY UPDATE AND DISCUSSION

Director Reynolds noted that at its last meeting the Committee directed DoA to complete a revocable easement with the City for Lot 10, which has been accomplished. Lot 10 is the adjacent residential lot to the 15 acres (Lot 9), that was gifted to the state from the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) in 1956 for use of a governor's residence or a park.

In review, he said, the department was contacted about four years ago with questions of the state's intent for Lot 9 and suggested the patent could be revoked if no action is taken. Subsequently, the Committee directed the department to begin the process of transferring the parcel to the City to be incorporated into the trails system. At that time, it was discovered that there were several encroachments by neighbors onto the property and that halted the transfer process. There is a requirement that encroachments be cured before a transfer takes place. In the meantime, the department engaged in a temporary licensing agreement with the City and like the easement of Lot 10, places the responsibility for maintenance with the City.

Also, at the last meeting there was discussion whether use of the land for the trails system would fall into the category of a park as stipulated by BLM. He had a conversation with BLM last July and at its request he sent a written request for guidance whether the intended use would satisfy requirements, and if not whether BLM would assess value for the parcel and then directly transfer it to the City. Two emails were sent in July and he followed up with a phone call and another email in December and there has been no response. He suggested the Committee direct the department to take the next formal step of "Filing a Plan" which would include the map of the current use of the land by the City. At this time, he said, the land is neither a liability nor an asset to the state but does facilitate the neighborhood's use of the property.

Chairman Winder agreed to have the department continue to pursue a permanent transfer explaining the arrangement with the City will be beneficial to the community in the long run. He thanked Senator Jordan for initiating communications with the City.

Mr. and Ms. Glen thanked the Committee for working with the City on the current solution for use of the parcels noting there has been an uptick in use of the trails through the property.

ADJOURNMENT

Chairman Winder adjourned the meeting of the Governor's Housing Committee at 3:55 p.m.



Diane K. Blume, Program Specialist
Department of Administration